

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 18, 1998 LR 45

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Brown. The question before the body is the adoption of the Brown amendment to LR 45CA. All those in favor vote aye, all those opposed vote nay. Please record. Record vote.

CLERK: (Read record vote. See page 1129 of the Legislative Journal.) 10 ayes, 28 nays.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Brown amendment fails. I raise the call.

CLERK: I have nothing further pending to the resolution at this time, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Bruning.

SENATOR BRUNING: I move LR 45CA to E & R for engrossing.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The question...Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, and members of the Legislature, this is not wise legislation. I don't believe that LR 45CA should be advanced. I enjoyed working with "the wizard" to try to put it in a shape that will not be as damaging if it happens to get on the ballot. I would suggest to Senator Jones in the hopes that I can get him to vote no that removing the word "township" from the constitution has nothing to do with whether or not townships will continue to exist, nothing whatsoever. But it may make it easier for a future Legislature to decide that it will just eliminate them. An argument could be made that the framers of this government intended that townships should exist despite the fact that the Legislature, even with the word "township" in the constitution, could pass laws to abolish them. An argument could be made as long as that entity was recognized in the constitution that such an entity ought to exist. This whole concept of merger in the minds of some people borders on trying to create semi or quasi states to compete with this state. Political subdivisions from the counties right on down are subordinate to the state and are designed to be. They are the instrumentalities through which the state carries out various functions. The state is not going to go into each area or neighborhood where people live and do this, that, or the other. It is going to parcel these